Fire Extinguishers

Hand held portables

For questions regarding this presentation, contact:

Dennis Keplinger, CSP

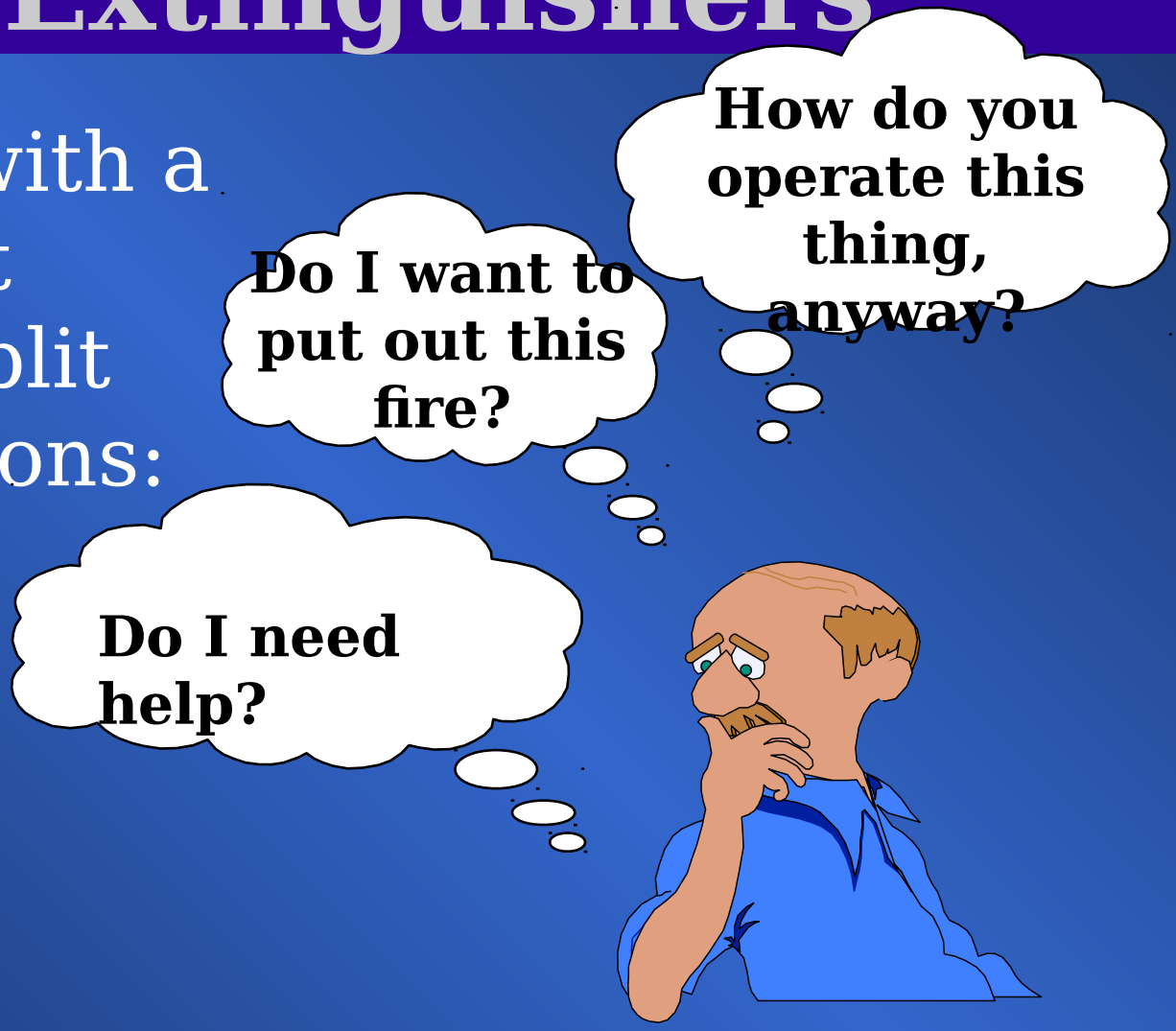
USASC, Training Development

334-255-3367

keplingd@safety-emh1.army.mil

Fire Extinguishers

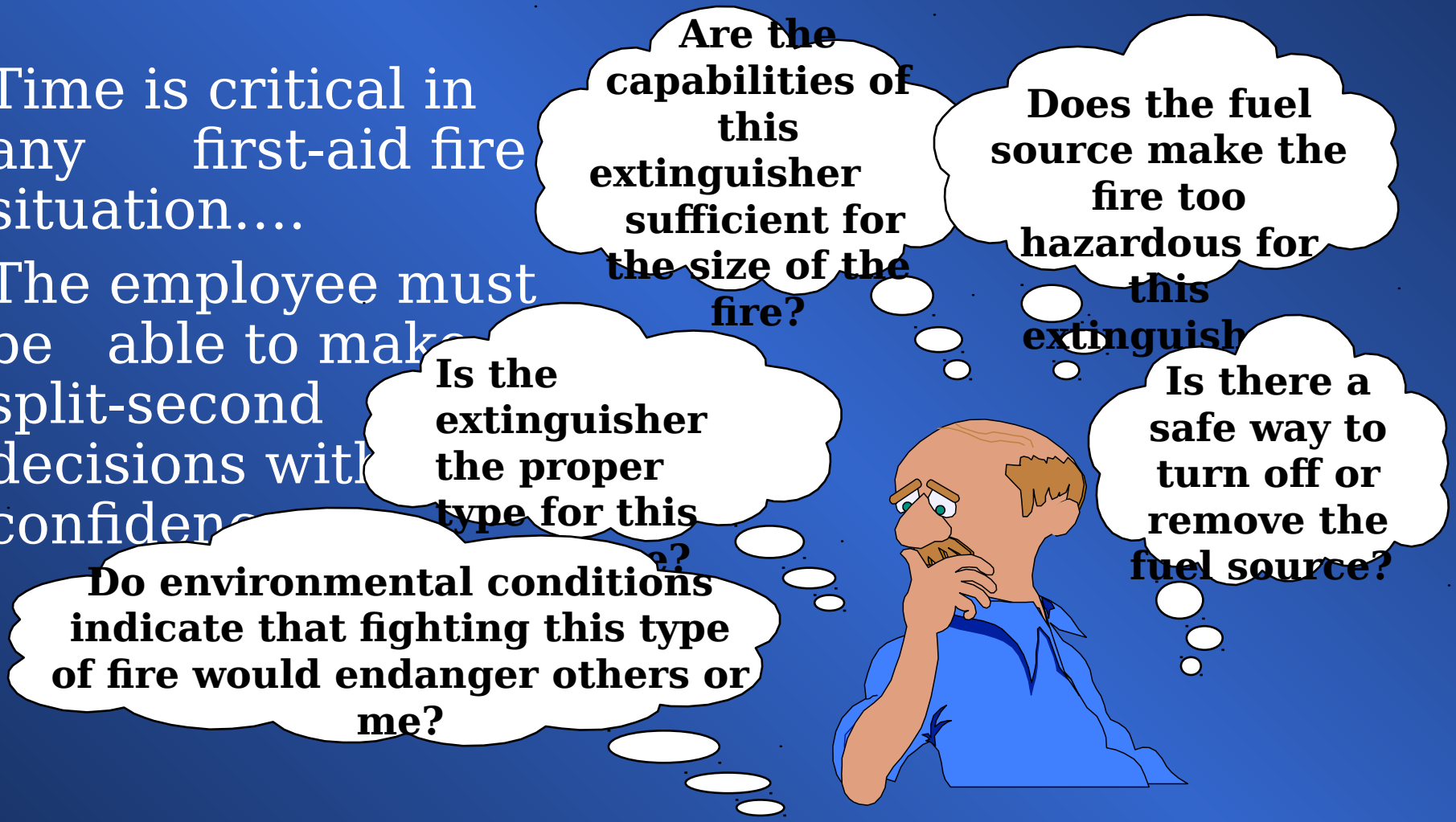
When faced with a fire, you must make some split second decisions:



Fire Extinguishers

Time is critical in any first-aid fire situation….

The employee must be able to make split-second decisions with confidence


Are the capabilities of this extinguisher sufficient for the size of the fire?
Does the fuel source make the fire too hazardous for this extinguish
Is the extinguisher the proper type for this
Is there a safe way to turn off or remove the fuel source?
Do environmental conditions indicate that fighting this type of fire would endanger others or me?

Fire Extinguishers

When seconds count……

Even a willing operator cannot successfully extinguish a fire unless they know how to actuate the available equipment.

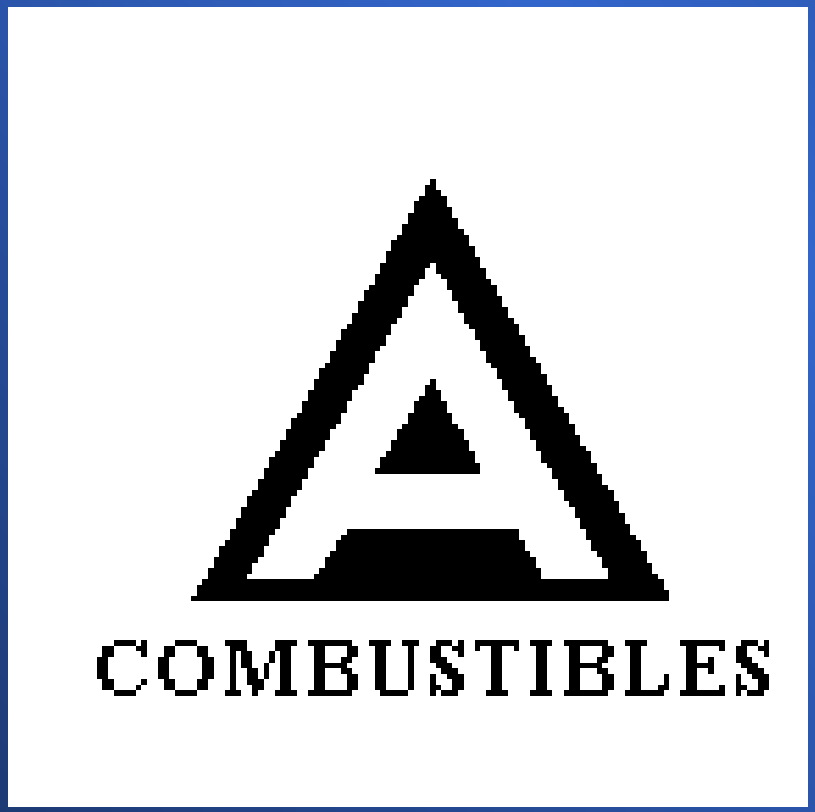
Fire Extinguishers

TYPES OF FIRE

There are three common types or classes of fire:

- Class A - Combustible material
- Class B - Flammable liquid
- Class C - Electrical
- Class D - Combustible metals (not as well known)

Fire Extinguishers

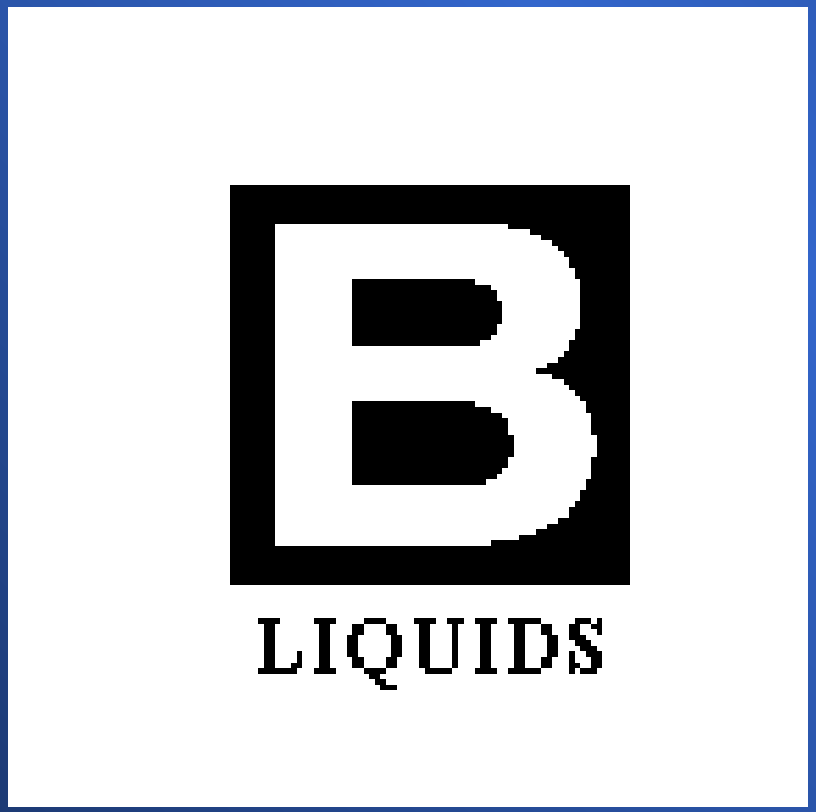


CLASS "A":

Class "A" type fires involve ordinary combustibles

such as: wood, paper, cloth, rubber, and many plastics.

Fire Extinguishers

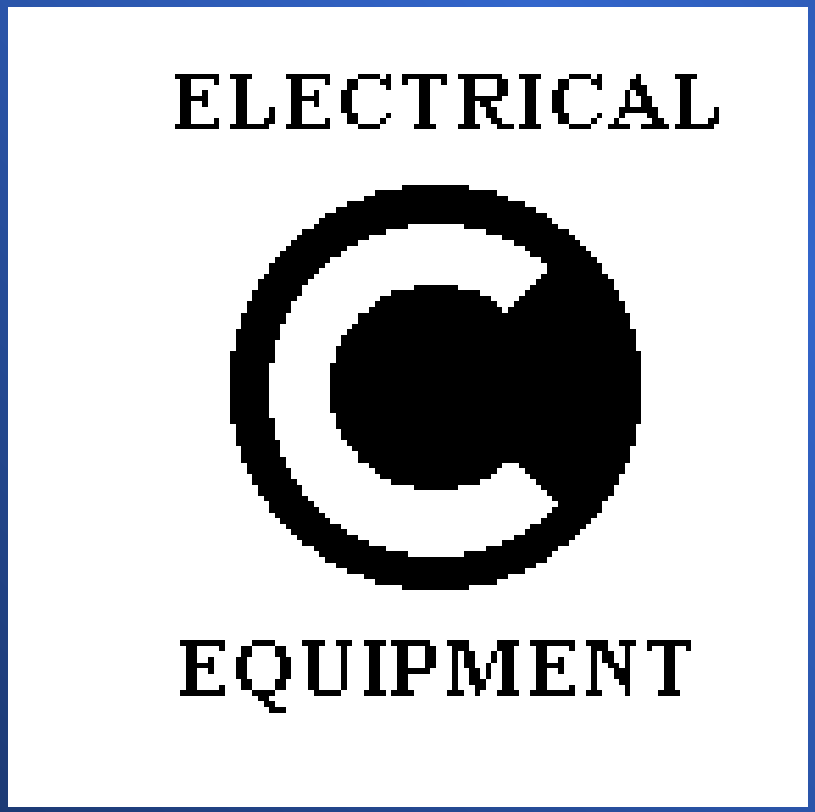


- CLASS "B":

Class "B" type fires involve flammable liquids such as:

gasoline, oil, grease, tar, oil-based paints, lacquer, and flammable gases.

Fire Extinguishers



- CLASS "C":

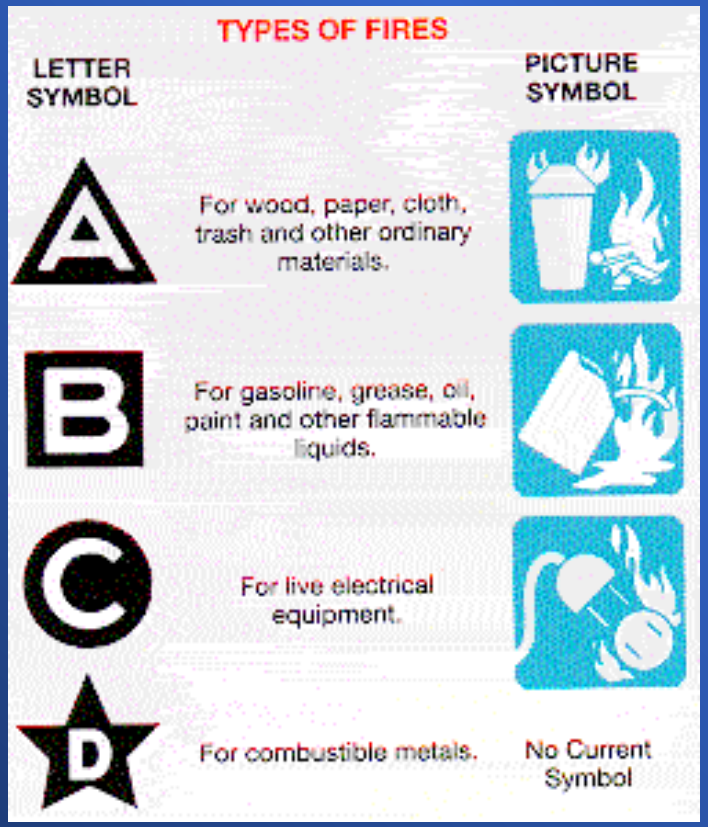
Class "C" type fires involve energized electrical equipment such as: wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery, and appliances.

Fire Extinguishers

- CLASS ”D":

  Class ”D” type fires involve combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, sodium, etc.

Fire Extinguisher Labeling



Letter symbols and picture symbols make it easy to select the proper extinguisher for the type of fire.

Fire Extinguishers

Maintenance

The best piece of equipment will not operate if it is not recharged and maintained properly. History has proven that nearly every fire extinguisher failure can be traced back to human negligence.

Fire Extinguishers

Portable fire extinguishers must be visually inspected monthly. The inspection should assure that:

1. **Fire extinguishers are in their assigned place;**
2. **Fire extinguishers are not blocked or hidden;**
3. **Fire extinguishers are mounted in accordance with NFPA Standard No. 10 (Portable Fire Extinguisher);**
4. **Pressure gauges show adequate pressure (CO_2 extinguisher must be weighted to determine if leakage has occurred);**
5. **Pin and seals are in place;**
6. **Fire extinguishers show no visual sign of damage or abuse;**
7. **Nozzles are free of blockage.**

Fire Extinguishers

Cartridge Operated Maintenance:

Maintenance of a cartridge operated extinguisher means a complete examination, and involves disassembly and inspection of each part and replacement where necessary.

Maintenance should be done at least annually or more often if conditions warrant.

Check with local fire prevention for specific installation maintenance, inspection and turn-in procedures.

Fire Extinguishers

Wheeled Units Maintenance:

Maintenance of wheeled units consists of monthly checks of the nitrogen pressure, at 70 degrees Fahrenheit the cylinders should register 2150 psi. The hose should be checked as will as the operation of the nozzle checking inside the nozzle for insect nests, the wheels should be turned monthly to insure that they are freewheeling.

Check with local fire prevention for specific installation maintenance, inspection and turn-in procedures.

Fire Extinguishers

Extinguisher Placement (Travel Distance)

The following chart contains OSHA requirements for classes of fires and

travel distance to an extinguisher.

Some local requirements may be stricter, so you should always check with your local fire marshal / fire prevention office.

Fire Class	Travel Distance
Class A	***75 ft. (22.9m) or less**
Class B	**50 ft. (15.2m)**
Class C	**Based on appropriate A or B Hazard Class.**
Class D	**75 ft**

Fire Extinguishers

Safety Tips: Portable Fire Extinguishers

This is a brief overview of the important points of using a portable fire extinguisher. Fire can be devastating, but when used properly, a fire extinguisher can save lives and property.

Fire Extinguishers

USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

The P.A.S.S. word is a method for operating most common fire extinguishers. It is a four step method.

Fire Extinguishers

Utilize the P.A.S.S method.

{P} Pull, remove the pull pin.

{A} Aim, point the nozzle at the base of the fire.

{S} Squeeze, depress the lever to start the discharging of the chemical.

{S} Sweep, move the extinguisher with a sweeping motion at the base of the fire until the fire is out.

Fire Extinguishers

Pass Method

"P" stands for PULL the pin.

This will unlock the operating handle and allow you to discharge the extinguisher.

Fire Extinguishers

Pass Method

"A" stands for AIM

at the base of the fire.

Fire Extinguishers

Pass Method

"S" stands for SQUEEZE

the operating handle. This will discharge the fire fighting agent.

Fire Extinguishers

Pass Method

"S" stands for SWEEP

from side to side. Move carefully in on the fire, aiming at the base, sweep back and forth.

Fire Extinguishers

Questions?